AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, paragraph number 34 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0034] Turning to FIG. 3, another exemplary embodiment of a switch 300 according to the present invention is shown. Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, the architecture and operation of the switch illustrated in FIG. 3 may be generally similar to those of the switch illustrated in FIG. 2, except for the differences described below. The design shown in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 3 is generally identical to that of FIG. 2, except that switch 300 of Fig. 3 does not include electrically isolated islands directly underneath stoppers 322, as in switch 200 of Fig. 2. This difference is shown clearly by the cross-sectional side view in FIG. 3B. Switch 300 includes support beam 305, contact beam 330, metal 315, stoppers 322 and contact dimple 332. The absence of electrically isolated islands may result in a narrow air gap between the top and bottom electrodes 320 and 310 respectively, when switch 300 is in its collapsed state, as stoppers 322 bear down directly on bottom electrode 310. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, paragraph number 39 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0039] The operation of the switch illustrated in FIG. 5 is generally similar to that of the switch of FIG. 2. An actuation voltage applied between top electrode 520 and bottom electrode 510 may result in deflection of low k beam 505 and collapse of switch 500 that may result in contact between contact dimple 532 and contact metal 515. The size of the gap between top and bottom electrodes 520 and 510, in the collapsed state, as well as the strength of the contact between contact dimple 532 and contact metal 515, may be affected by the size of stoppers 522 and islands 512. The position of the contact dimple 532 to the left of the stoppers 522 may affect a non-linear deflection of the low spring constant beam 505 resulting in an opening force, once actuation voltage is removed, that may be higher than in the

exemplary embodiments shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, for example, an opening force of about 100 μN ~~100□N~~. This may result in faster opening of top electrode 510 from bottom electrode 520 and, thus, improved opening performance of the switch. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, paragraph number 41 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0041] The operation of the switch illustrated in FIG. 6 is generally similar to that of the switch of FIG. 2. An actuation voltage applied between top electrode 620 and bottom electrode 610 may result in deflection of low *k* beam 605 and collapse of switch 600 that may result in contact between contact dimple 632 and contact metal 615. The size of the gap between top and bottom electrodes 620 and 610, in the collapsed state, as well as the strength of the contact between contact dimple 632 and contact metal 615, may be affected by the size of the stoppers 622. The position of the contact dimple 632 to the left of the stoppers 622 may effect a non-linear deflection of the low spring constant beam 605 resulting in an opening force, once actuation voltage is removed, that may be higher than in the exemplary embodiments shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, for example, an opening force of about 120 μN ~~120□N~~. This may result in faster opening of top electrode 610 from bottom electrode 620 and, thus, improved opening performance of the switch.--